

contributions to the past, present, and future of country music have inspired generations of rising stars to stake their own unique claims in the rich and diverse traditions of the genre. Ray's career should serve as a gentle reminder to us all that while conformity may make for an easier journey, the creative heart rarely finds solace or joy in following in another's footsteps.

This year, the Country Music Hall of Fame honored not one but two musicians who fundamentally transformed the sound and feel of modern music and set country musicking above the rest. Eddie Bayers, one of 2021's Recording and Touring Musician inductees, is an undisputed master of his craft. He is a first call drummer, a revered instructor, and one of the industry's most coveted human metronomes. For more than 50 years, he has laid the groove for the world's most beloved artists, and I am so pleased to see him finally take his place in the spotlight. Pete Drake, Bayers' fellow 2021 Recording and Touring Musician inductee, used his unparalleled skill on the pedal steel guitar to turn already great musicians into chart-topping legends. He forever changed the way artists in all genres thought about pedal steel, and his version of Alvin Rey's "talking" steel guitar, dubbed the "talk box," made its way into some of rock 'n roll's most iconic and instantly recognizable records.

On behalf of the entire Tennessee delegation, I would like to express my gratitude to Naomi, Wynonna, Ray, Eddie, and Pete for their passion and artistry. The world is a far more vibrant and beautiful place for having experienced the gift of their music.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSE ROMERO

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jose Romero for his service as Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Health. He has led the ADH with a strong resolve and determination throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and his medical expertise has helped Arkansans navigate and establish commonsense health solutions during this unprecedented time.

Dr. Romero launched his career at the Arkansas Department of Health when he served as chief medical officer, and he was later appointed interim Secretary of Health in May of 2020 by Governor Asa Hutchinson. Dr. Romero proved he was more than up to the task; he excelled in this position and was quickly elevated to Secretary in August of the same year. The governor has said of his time working with Dr. Romero, "He's supported me. He's supported our state. He's understood the political dynamics as well as the epidemiology of dealing with this pandemic, and while it's a great loss to Arkansas, he's developed a very, very strong team

at the Department of Health that I know will be able to continue with great vigor and continued leadership."

Dr. Romero has years of experience and an impressive educational background that prepared him to serve the people of Arkansas in the critical role he has filled over the last several years. He served as the chairman of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which provided national guidance on the prioritization and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. He has also recently been appointed to the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee on Infectious Diseases and has consistently showed his ability to expertly inform and protect public health for the entire country.

Dr. Romero has a passion for not only serving others but teaching as well. He is a professor of pediatrics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and has board certification in pediatrics and pediatric infectious diseases. He was also the section chief of pediatric infectious diseases at the Arkansas Children's Hospital from 2008 through 2020, where he was involved with numerous studies across his field that have contributed immensely to medical sciences. I am so grateful Arkansans have had such a dedicated civil servant looking out for us for so long.

Dr. Romero has continuously shown his incredible commitment to the betterment of our Nation through his work improving the health of Americans and educating the next generation of healthcare professionals. Throughout his time as Secretary of Health, Dr. Romero has bravely navigated the COVID-19 pandemic and helped the Natural State stay safe and healthy while continuing to thrive.

He has become a familiar face across Arkansas standing beside Governor Hutchinson during daily press conferences regarding the virus, making him a trusted source for many Arkansans with questions and concerns about the pandemic and medicine generally. As a member of the Governor's cabinet, Dr. Romero worked diligently alongside the Governor's team to provide senior scientific and executive leadership for the agency, and his commitment to the health and well-being of Arkansans has been clear throughout his career. Dr. Romero has shown his dedication for providing quality information to all Arkansans during his tenure, and we have benefited from his expertise.

It is evident Dr. Romero's passion for service and selfless dedication to public health has made an incredibly positive impact in every project he has been a part of and helped our State and all its citizens throughout the pandemic. Dr. Romero has devoted his life to protecting the public and educating others. I appreciate the opportunity to work with Dr. Romero and thank him for his commitment to improving the

health and wellness of Arkansans. As he transitions to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Arkansas is full of gratitude for Dr. Romero and his dedication to our State.●

##### TRIBUTE TO WALLACE "BUTCH" THUNDER HAWK

• Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, I want to honor today the distinguished career of a remarkable North Dakota educator and artist who is retiring from teaching this month.

Wallace "Butch" Thunder Hawk is an internationally renowned artist who has been a Tribal art teacher at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck for 49 years. He has helped hundreds of students grow their artistic talent and appreciate traditional Native American art and traditions.

Beyond his classroom in Bismarck, the impact of Butch's passion for creating and teaching Native American art has been felt around the world. A Hunkpapa Lakota Teton Sioux, he was raised in the community of Cannonball on the Standing Rock Reservation. Butch was influenced by the work of his grandparents and mother, who created traditional art including beadwork, warbonnets, and tools. Ledger art has become one of Butch's great interests, and he has created hand-carved horse effigies, horse memorial sticks, war shields, and traditional weaponry.

His artwork can be seen in homes and museums around the region and world. He was instrumental in establishing the Indian Hall exhibit at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, helping to recreate art similar to what Lewis and Clark would have collected during their famous expedition in the early 1800s. Working with Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, he and his students created several pieces for Monticello's Indian Hall, including clubs, lances, arrows, shields, pipes, and a quiver and bowcase. Later, following several years as a visiting scholar at Harvard, he was a curator of an exhibit at the Peabody Museum on Lakota images of the West. One of his horse memorial effigy replicas is in the permanent collection at the Nelson Atkins Museum in Kansas City, and two major art pieces are on display at the James Monroe House in Charlottesville, VA. One of his ornaments featuring a bison was displayed on the White House Christmas Tree in 2008.

He has said creating art and teaching honors his ancestors, his family, his students, and other artist friends. He considers it a privilege to share Lakota traditions with students and help them grow their appreciation of this art.

When I heard the news that Butch Thunder Hawk was retiring from teaching, I smiled. In previous positions I held that included promoting all that is good about North Dakota, Butch was at the very top of the list of our State's most treasured cultural ambassadors. A humble, personable,